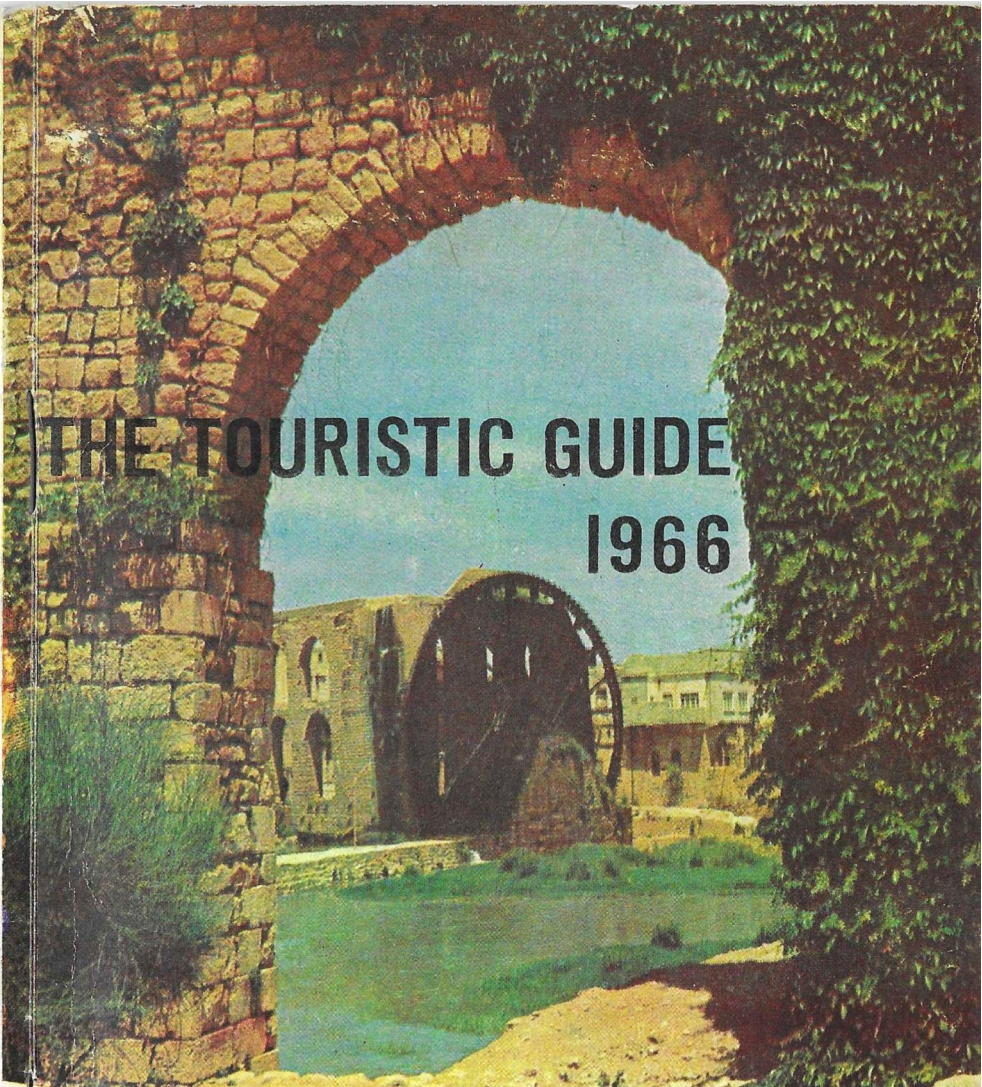




THE TOURISTIC GUIDE 1966

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC MOUHAFAZAT OF HAMA

HAMA



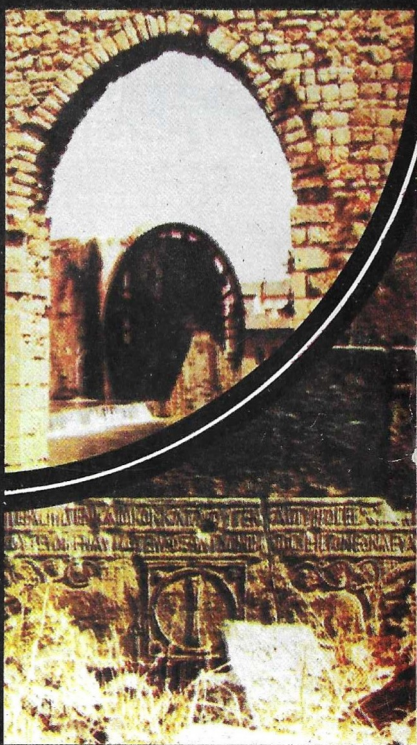
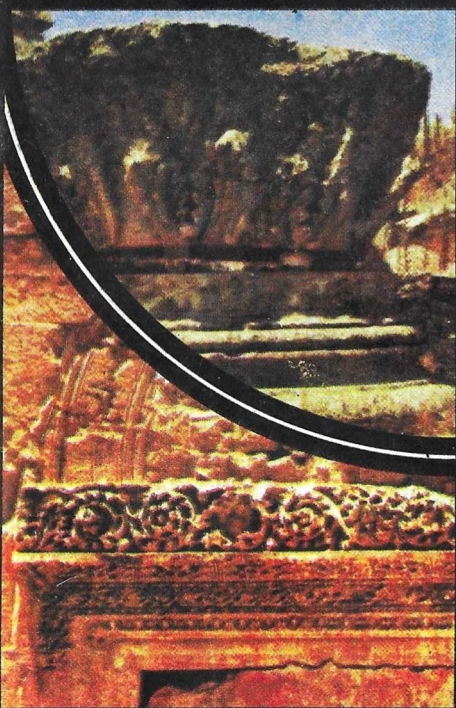
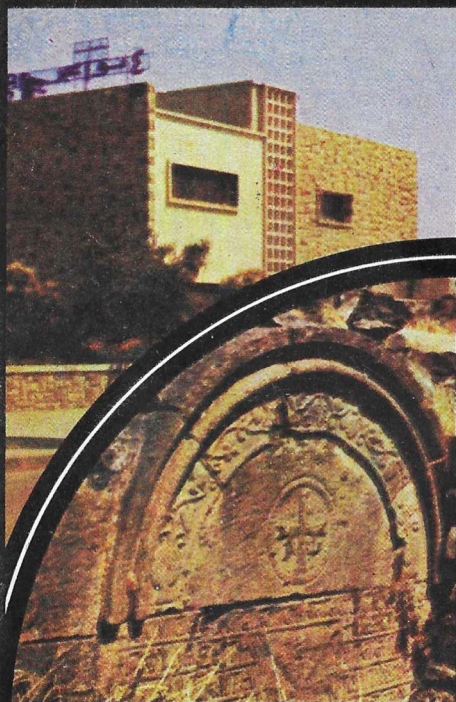


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HAMA THROUGH HISTORY

- a) Situation and importance**
- b) Antiquities which return to the fifth millennium B.C. (The Neolithic Age).**
- c) The outstanding monuments which return to the first and second millennium B.C.**
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INTRODUCTION

Hama is a very old city. Its history returns to the fifth millennium B.C. as the excavations of the Danish mission led by professor Herald Ingolt has discovered. It is the fourth city in Syria. Its population goes to 441231 person. It is situated on the banks of the Orontes in the middle of the populated region in central Syria within the degrees 35 and 7% of latitude and the longitudinal degrees 44 and 36 to the East, bordered by Aleppo region at the North and by the Alawite mounts to the West which separate it from the Mediterranean sea. To the south lies the region of Homs and to the East extends the Syrian desert. The area of the region of Hama amounts to 8861 Km² and it lies on the main-road which joins Damascus and Aleppo. Its medium altitude reaches (300) meters over the sea - level.

A large number of peoples had succeeded to Hama, that its antiquities still denote the existence of many old civilizations over it. This can be seen in the discovered antics which belong to the Hitites, Aramaean, Hellenists, Romans, Byzantines and the Islamics.

For all that we put this touristic and anti-quarean guide for Hama. Its region to show the short history of this territory through the ages, its outstanding monuments and touristic places.

THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF HAMA

The excavations assure that Hama was found since the fifth millennium B.C. (in the Neolithic age). It expanded with the time and became an important city. In its citadel there has been discovered the foundations of oblong foundations whose history return to the third and fourth millennium B.C. . Hama had submitted to the Sumerians and the Achaeans till the end of the twenty - second century B.C. when the Ammonites, who plundered and destroyed it, had occupied it by sneaking to it from the Syrian desert. The city had attained a great success at the beginning of the second millennium B.C ; but after that its growth was stopped in the year 1750 B.C. when the Hexos invaded it. Hama submitted to their servitude up to the year 1580 B.C. . Hama regained its power within the years 1580 and 1480 B.C. during the Metanic occupation.

Tothmes the third (1482-1450 B.C.) occupied Hama which remained under the Pharaonic dominance up to the age of Tell el'A.mar'na between the years (1400 and 1350 B.C.) when the Indo-European tribes (the Hittites) swept over it. The Aramaeans succeeded to the rule of Hama in c. 1000 B.C. . Their rule endured up to the year 720 B.C. .

Hama had prospered greatly in this interval. This can be clearly seen in the variety of what has been discovered in the Aramaean stratum in the citadel of Hama, on one hand, and in what had the fall of Hama left of echo in the holy Bible on the other hand.

(Woe to them who are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came !

Pass into Calneh, see; and go from thence to Hamath the great : then go down to Gath of the Philistines: is it better than these kingdoms ? or its border is greater than your border ?)

- Amos VI, 1 and 2 -

Under the leadership of their king Sargon the second, the Assyrian occupied the Aramaean kingdom of Hama, then devastated the whole city. They abolished all that was left of its features in the year 720 B.C. After that, the city was rebuilt and many rulers succeeded to reign on it. It succumbed to the Babylonian, Persian and Greek authorities. After the death of Alexander Hama yielded to the rule of the Saracens (333 B.C.). It regained a part of its previous prosperity, especially under the rule of Antiochus the fourth (Epiphanes) who restored the order and its previous glory, for that it was named Epiphania after his name. No sooner that the Romans occupied it on 64 B.C. so the city knew a kind of an internal independance in that period of the time. Then after Hama lived, under the Byzantine's regime, so Hama kept the characteristics of the previous age and got some rights in internal independance. The case remained so up to the year (A.D. 638) in which the Arab Islamic expansion was achieved under the leadership of Abu-Ubeida ibn Al-Jarrah.

THE ISLAMIC SECTION

In the year 17 after Departure, Hama yielded peacefully to Abu-Ubeida Al-Jarrah. The Great Primer Caliphs and the Omayyad caliphs ruled it successively from Damascus and the Abbasside caliphs followed them in its rule from Baghdad ; but the prosperity of the city was good in the reign of Nour El-Din Zenki who established in it many antiquarean buildings among which is his famous mosque (Al-Nouri Mosque) and the western wall of the city and the sanatorium. Hama reached the highest point of glory in the Ayyubite time when it became the center of their wide kingdom. During that time, the area of Hama expanded and got the Ayyubite stamp which can be seen clearly in its historical monuments which belong to that era.

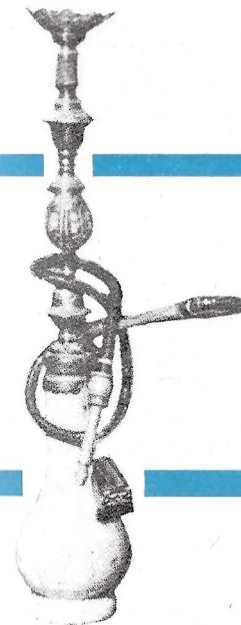
The calamities and hard times through which Hama had passed through caused the down fall of its buildings and its general deterioration in the procession of civilization that its name stopped to shine except at the Atabeckan Zenkist state and its successor, the Ayyubite state when it restored its activity and practised a new life when the Ayyubite restored to Hama its previous glory and brought to her the scholars from everywhere. They enriched its treasury, supported its income, fastened its walls and fortified its citadel. They expanded its area by adding new lands to it. They pushed back its adversaries and erected in it some great

buildings and beautiful halls besides the excellent dwellings. They appointed the princes and collected the armies. Its markets became full of everything ; its fields grew every kind of trees. They brought to it the artisans , accomplish its beauty which became one of the best cities in the world and obtained the complete prosperity.

We could find, kingly halls, mosques, schools, private seclusions and parks ; And we add its rich market where you could find anything you wished ; for its modern buildings and the signs of benevolence and generosity are nothing but signs of the grants and luxury of the Ayyubite state.

After that Hama became ruled by the Mam'looks who governed both Syria and Egypt. After that it was shifted to the hands of the Sultan Selim in A.D. 1516 and from that time on, it became under the Ottoman rule. The Turkes made Hama a territory which was joined to the district of Tripoli which had rulers (who had paid for their posts to the Sultans). Those rulers held the lands by despotism and ferocity. Hama was one of the Syrian cities which received with its villages the various kinds of maltreatments, taxation and oppression from that rule so that security was lost and the nomadic Arabs invaded it and its villages while the Turkish government was taken a deep sleep. Many of the citisens in Hama were forced to leave their country escaping with their families. This led in consequence to the general deterioration of the city. When the Arabic

revolution occured under the leadership of Sheriff Hussein in A.D.1916 the Syrian lands were refreed from the Ottoman rule and Syria became under the rule of King Feissal the first whose reign did not last more than two years when Syria fell under the French rule in consequence to the imperial conspiracy which was woven by France and its ally England during first War. Hama played an important rôle in resisting the French occupation as was clearly shown in the events of 1945 which led to the final evacuation of the French armies from Syria.



THE ANTIQUITIES OF HAMA

The successive civilizations had left in Hama many eternal antiquities each of which tells the story of a period in its history and a regime of its time. Its monuments are a connecting link which join the far past with the near present and a connecting chain between the civilizations since its beginning up to our present day.

Hama in its whole is a magnificent antiquity left through the ages, especially in its great old buildings, its narrow markets which preserved its original stamp besides the different style of its people. But time and successive earthquakes did not leave to us of those antiquities but what the divine will had preserved and kept through the ages. The antiquities of Hama are located either inside the city or in its suburbs and region ; but most of its internal antiquities are either in the corner of an alley or at the sides of its houses ; but the government has begun to display and clarify their features.

A : THE ANTIQUITIES FOUND INSIDE THE CITY

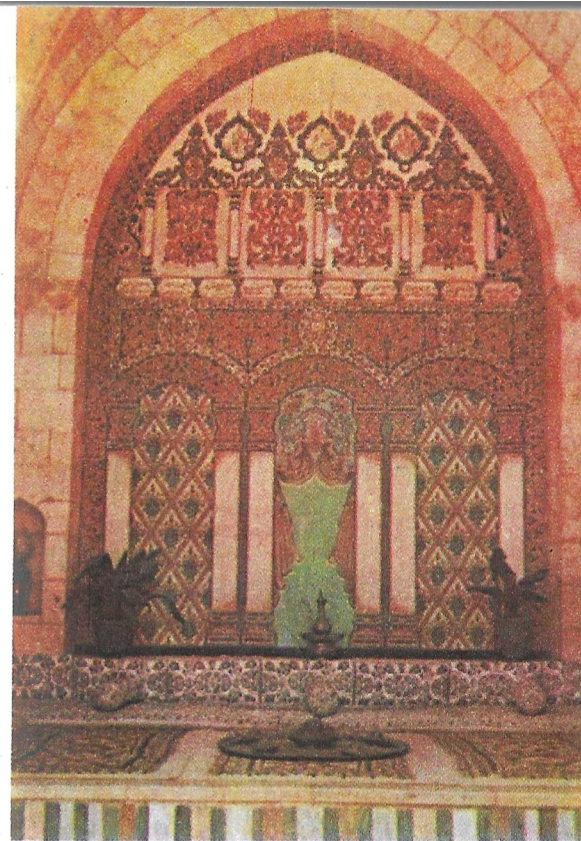
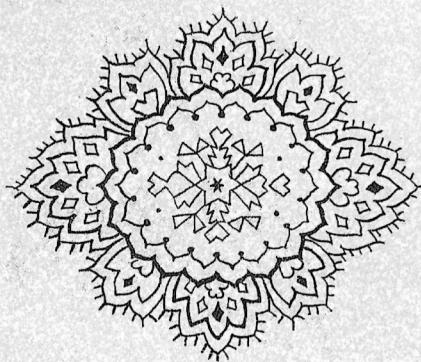
- 1) **Al-Azm Palace** : Is a unique masterpiece and a genuine sample of the Arabic style in architecture and decoration. Assad Pasha Al-Azm had constructed it during his accession to authority over the region of Hama in 1740. He gathered for its construction every artist and innovator so that it became a masterpiece in its beauty and splendor. It contains of architectural merits what you rarely can find anywhere else. It is a unique gem in the crown of Islamic architecture and



External view of Al-Azm Palace (Hama), Façade of the golden room

one of the magnificent antiquities which are always intended on the banks of the Orontes. It is of the most beautiful architectural monuments in the Ottoman era whose visit allures the hearts of the visitors and tourists, on the diversity of their countries and races, to spend some hours in it where its magic over helms them and its ornaments win their admiration.

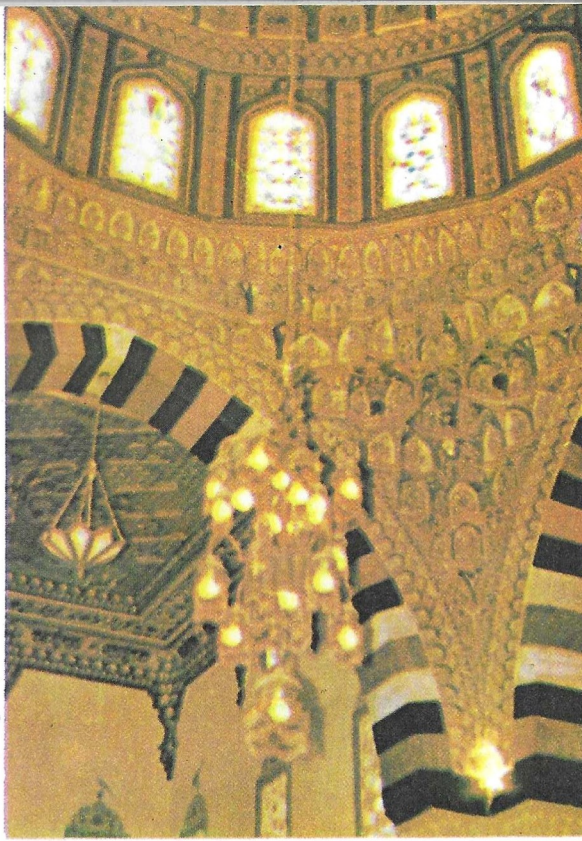
It is situated in the most splendid and beautiful place antiquarean and natural that some of the observers would see that the best in this palace is its location. It is situated on the river bank with its lofty dome and the river flows underneath as if it were a direct and beautiful street over which the norias sing their sweet song in a mild tone. The observer might see from its top many of the antiquarean monuments of Hama such as the lofty citadel, Al-Nouri Mosque, the Sultan Baths and the Keilani Hall with their special seclusion corner; this in addition to some other districts in the city with its parks and gardens.



A hall in the terrace of Al-Azm Palace

What is most beautiful in the palace is its large hall (the Golden Hall) which is one of the magnificent antiquarean halls, if we did not say the best in the whole Arab East, for what it included of ornaments and aspects of innovation in them. In its façade there appear the minute lines of carving which display clearly similarity and diversity at one time either in its doors and windows, with its small high windows or in the inlaid on marble with coloured stones.

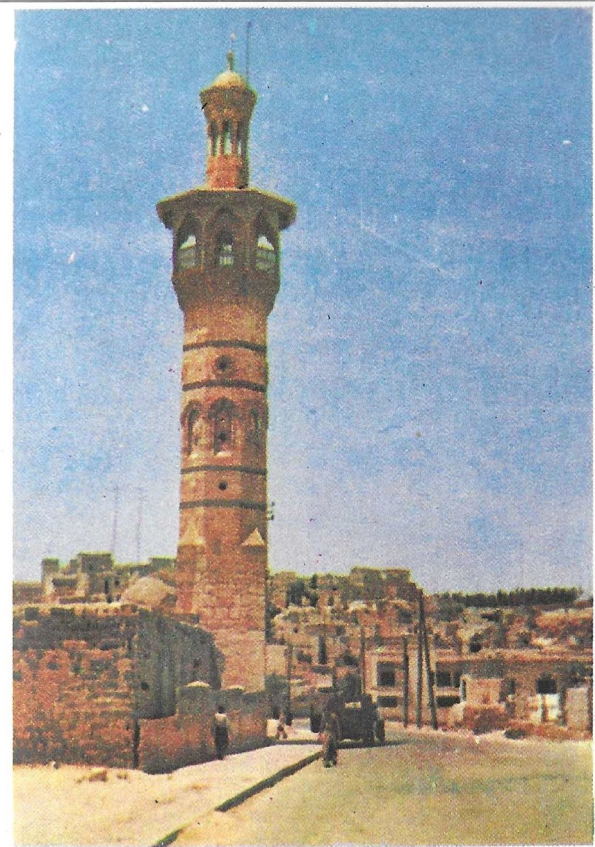
The inside of the hall wins our admiration and amazement either in the threshold and its dome and the fountain below or in its triple decorations and in the eastern or western rooms which are joined to it.



The splendid antiquities of high arts in the Al-Azm Palace.

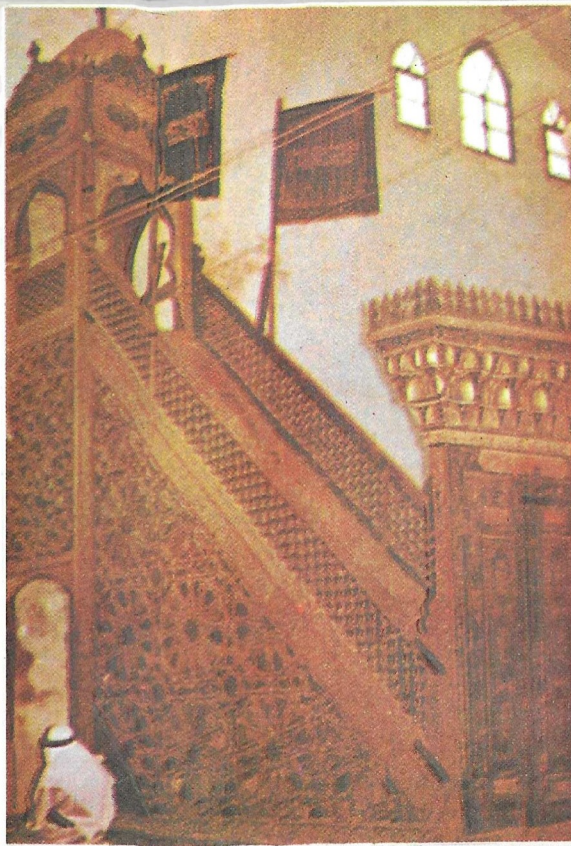
We can not in this haste clarify the saying concerned with the elements of the Hall, its ornaments and the aspects of innovations in it, that this is something unlimitable and lies beyond the capacity of rhetoric. It might suffice to say that the scrupulous visitor will greatly enjoy its perforated and coloured gypsic shades with its wooden coverings which are adorned in gold and the lustre with the unique wooden candelabra from its lofty dome with its supreme decorations and magnificent stone suspensions side by side with the unique style of similarity and diversity in its architecture.

The whole palace has lately become a national museum for the city of Hama and its region.



The northern minaret of the Grand Mosque

- 2) **The Grand Mosque** : The Grand Mosque lies in Al-Medina district of the city. It is at the head of Hama's antiquities. In it there appears the cult of three great civilizations which were different in all race, language and religion. Those civilizations return to: the Greeks, the Romans and to the Moslem Arabs. It was an idolatory temple for the Greeks, then it became a great cathedral for the Byzantine Romans and lastly it was made a mosque by the Moslem Arabs. Among its antiquities are the dozen of lines written in Greek on a middle pillar beside the Haram of the mosque; and the southern minaret with its squared shape with Kufic Writings on it. This in addition to the northern octogonol minaret. The most important of those antiquarean features is the wooden coffin.



**The antiquarean pulpit
in the Haram of the
Mosque**

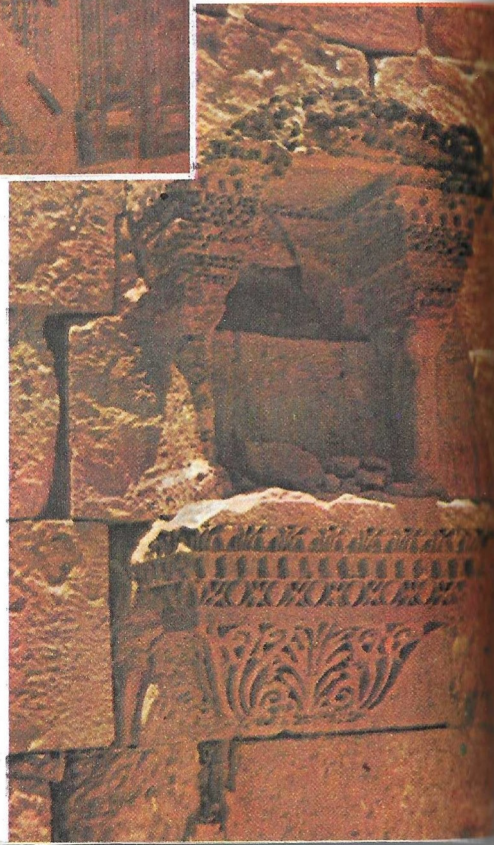
made of wrought ebony
which covers the tomb
both Kings : Al-Mansour
and his son Al-Muzaffar
It has been made in the
year 678 after the depart-
ure or 1249 A.D.

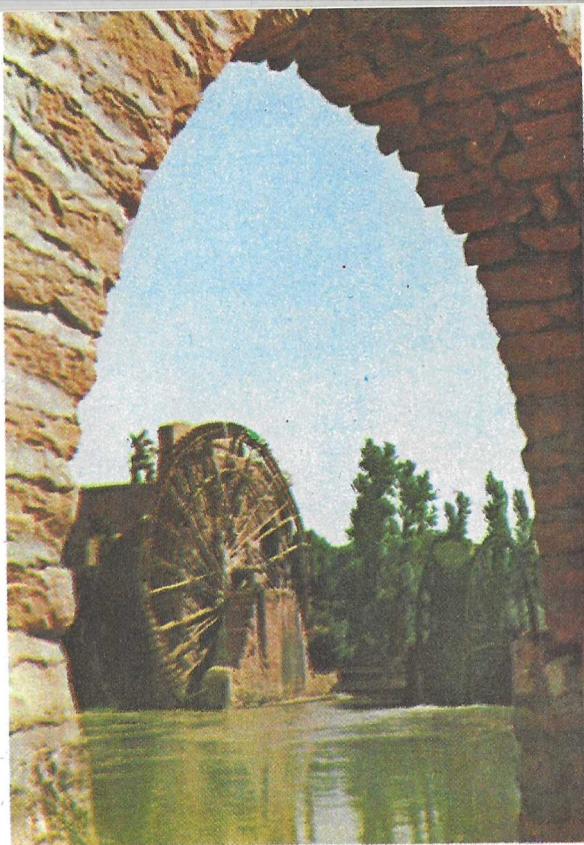


The minaret of Al-Nouri Mosque with its domes

- 3) **Al-Nouri Mosque** : It was established with the assylum building which lies to the south of it by Nour El-Deen Zenki in the year 855 after Departure, A.D. 1129. The Haram in it contains an antiquarean pulpit of wrought wood whose decorations are considered masterpieces in beauty and splendor. On its northern surrounding wall there are three important and monumental writings ; the first of which is written in Greek. It glorifies the people of the town and their forefathers for their steadiness before the the Roman invaders. The second writing in Arabic. It is carved in a beautifully ornamented table contain-
ing the name of the builder and the date of its establishment. The third writing is also in Arabic and shows that the mosque was a centre in which the scholarly bands were held by students who devoted themselves to study and got their pensions from the Wakf of the city.

**One of the decorative
Niches at the back of
the eastern façade of
the Haram
(the prayer hall)**





The four famous norias at the Bishriyyat and Maks

- 4) **The Norias** : The norias are the distinctive feature and the unique characteristic of Hama. They cannot be found in any other city. They are very old and return to the Roman era. They are considered of the most ancient and the best antiquities because, in their continuous rotation they go side by side with time and accompany its events. In their moaning, the beweeep the past civilizations, and in their pouring forth water into their archs they tell the story of the ages and the struggle of man for survival. They are the wooden wheels which revolve on the Orontes in a continuous movement and an eternal rotation. They rotate with water and elevate it to high places to irrigate the gardens of the city and to supply its houses and baths.



Al- Jfsriyyeh Noria with the Maa'mouriyyeh as it appears from under one of its bridges

The immirgrant remembers his parents with their moaning, the tourist listens to their melody and the sad lover cries with them. The poets sing on their melodies. Said Al-Andalousy said describing them: (May God protect on both sides of Hama some scenes, to which I devoted all my ears, thought and sight. Where the doves sing and the trees bend in flourishing buildings which grant description to the observer.

They blame me for disobeying reason and faculties in them and for obeying the goblet, amusements and music. To sing over those norias a similar tone, even to surpass them in dancing or to adopt their way in playing the instruments.

They moan and splash their tears as if they fell in love with their own reflexed image so they sink after it asking a favour.)



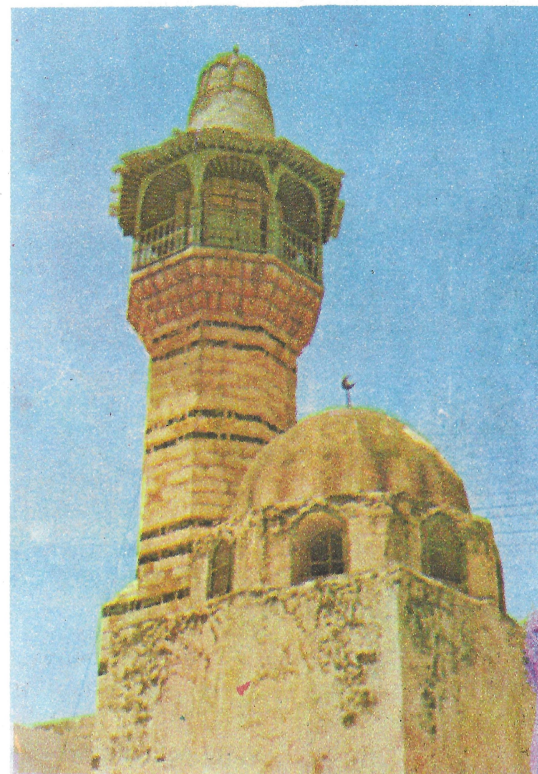
A general view of the city with its citadel and the natural region of Bab Al-Nahr

5 - The Citadel of Hama.

Is an antiquarean citadel which has a special historical importance due to what it included in its depths of antiquities which return to prehistorical ages. It is fortified and its surface is paved with stony slabs. Part of the slabs were removed but the rest are still existing covered with dust. The Citadel has become actually one of the city parks.

6 - Abi Al-Fida's Mosque

It includes a dome which holds the shrine of Abi-Al-Fida' king of Hama. The Mosque due to some inter-



The minaret of Abi Al-Fida's Mosque with the dome of his shrine

woven carvings which are similar to plaited snakes has become known as the Snakes' Mosque.

It was built in the year 726 after Departure (1297 A.D.).



The main entrance of Khan Assad Pasha.

7 - Khan Assad Pasha Al-Azm

It is situated near the gate of the town between Al-Moukef and the beginning of Al-Taweel market. It was built by Assad Pasha Al-Azm in 1751 for the boarding of travellers in addition to what he established of other buildings. Its outstanding characteristics lie in the style of its building, its entrance and the widely open yard inside.

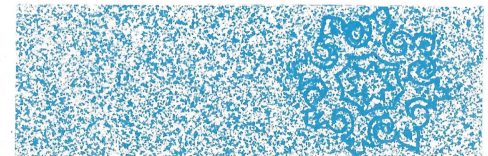
People know this khan nowadays by the name of Khan Al-Askar because it was occupied by some soldiers of the French army. The Syrian government had laid a hand over it in the beginning of Independence. The people of Hama felt the need for a preparatory technical school in which practical sciences are taught. This school was established in the year A.D. 1946 and this Khan has become its place.

8 - Khan Rustum Pasha

Is situated in Al-Marabet street which leads to the Orontes' square. It is now an orphanage. Its establishment returns to the Great Primer Rustum Pasha in the days of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the first in the year 964 After Dparture. It is mentioned that the garden of this school now known as the market of vegetables was part of its Wakf.

The people knew this Khan as the Khan of soldiers for a period of time at the end of the Ottoman era when it was used as a centre for the horsemen soldiers. This Khan is identified by its wide entrance and by the special style on which it was built. It has a big door in which there is a small opening called the eye-let which does not permit to more than one person to pass at a time. The great door leads to a spacious gate over which there are several rooms from both sides some for the guards and the guardian of the gate one waiting room and another for the owner of the Khan. The main guardian is specialized in observing the traffic from the Khan and into it. At the left side of the gate a stony stair bads to the upper floor. The gate bads to an open and spacious yard in the center of which a mosque for prayers is built and around the yard there are several small rooms.

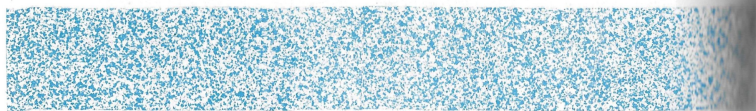
The building suits military purposes for which it was previously erected. Some stables and stations, to support the soldiers' with food and board, their horses with feed, are available. because of the troupe's movements during war and hard times.



Two floors were recently added to the Khan, one to satisfy the needs of the Orphanage and the other to be rented to the teacher's syndicate. Some rooms in the first floor were let as shops to enable the direction of the orphanage making use of this income in covering its expenses.



(The frontal façade of Khan Rustum Pasha)

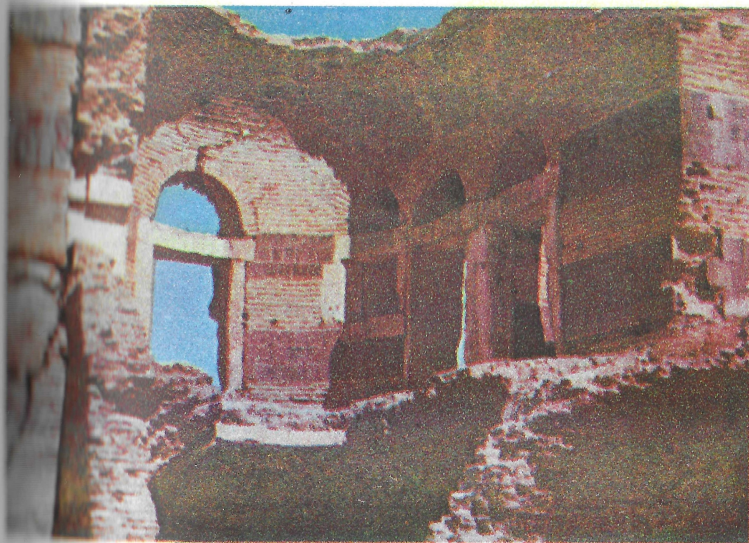


THE ANTIQUITIES IN THE SUBURBS OF THE CITY AND OUTSIDE IT

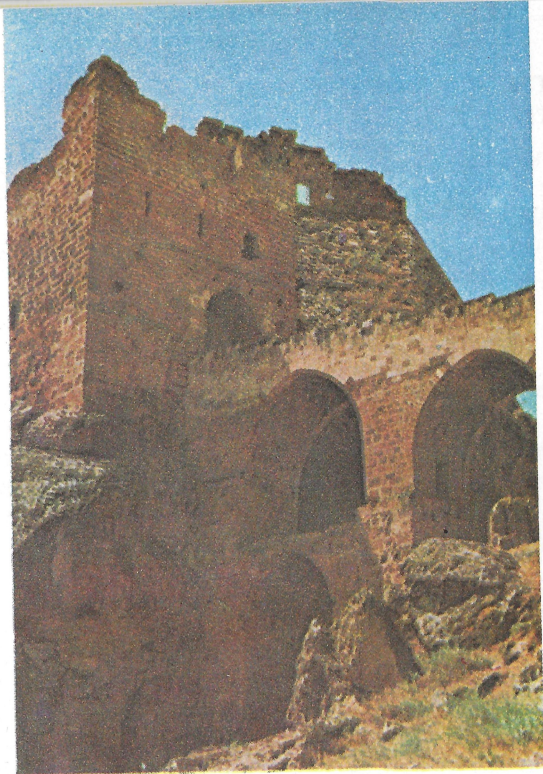
The suburbs of the city, as well, have plenty of historical and antiquarean places which possess splendid artistical and antiquarean characters.

Ibn-Wardan's Palace :

Unique in its architecture ; its style returns to the flourishing age of Justinean in the year 561 B.C. .It lies to the East of Hama on a paved way at 60 Km. distance from the city.



The roof of the church's curve from inside.



The arched bridge that leads to the citadel

2 - The Citadel of Sheisar

Is an eternal town and a fortified castle. The Pharaohs of Egypt knew it forty centuries before. The poets had mentioned it in many of their poems. It is not great in its history only but in its antiquities too. (entrance, towers, walls). It lies at 25 Km. distance from Hama.



A general view of the citadel of Al-Madick from the yard of the antiquarian -Khan.

3 - Aphia

Lies at the west of Sheisar at 25Km. distance. It can be reached via Hama-Khan Sheikhoun, the citadel of Al-Madick. It is one of the most famous buildings in history whose erection returns to the age of Sulus at the fourth century B.C. . A main street passes through it whose ground is paved in slabs and mosaic. Its length reaches 2 Km. On both sides there extend two halls with many kinds of pillars which have different ornaments. The town includes playgrounds which surpass the best playgrounds in the ancient world.

The city is still surrounded by a broad wall on the sides. The important thing in this city is the irrigation ducts which brought water to it from the town Selemieh.



Samples of the ornaments at the foundations of the buildings in Aphamia

Samples of the pillars and their crowns with the supporters above them.



4 - The Palace of Esriye

Is the bride of the western Syrian desert and the station at which the traders' caravans met in old days.



Southern and back view of the Palace of Esriye

It is known for the beauty of its building and the ornaments of its sides. The date of its establishment returns to the beginning of the Roman era in the first century B.C. It lies at 110 Kms. from Hama.



Southern view of the Church in the Monastery of the Cross.

5 - The Monastery of the Cross

Is a collection of antiquarean buildings which preserved its splendor and beauty since the Byzantine era in the fourth century A.D. It lies at the west of Hama on the way to Massiaf at 25 Km. distance.

6 - The Citadel of Massiaf

Is one of the fortified and well-known citadels. It has great towers which are still erected to manifest the



The citadel of Massiaf and its entrance in the south

Ayyubite style and art. This in addition to the complete walls of the town which lies at 50Km. distance from Hama.

7 - The Citadel of Abu-Kubeiss

It lies at the western north of the village Dair Shmeyyel and up the valley which is known as the valley of Abu Kubeiss. It is a lofty rocky place which looks over the valley which extends to the east up to Sheisar. It is now mere ruins in which the style of the crusaders is obvious. Among those ruins are the remains of towers and an internal layer with the obliterated ruins of a church. It was one of the famous Ismailite castles in this mountainous region. After that it was used by the crusaders as a centre for the horsmen of the hospital.



A general view of the citadel of Abu-Kubeiss

8 - The Citadel of Shmeimiss

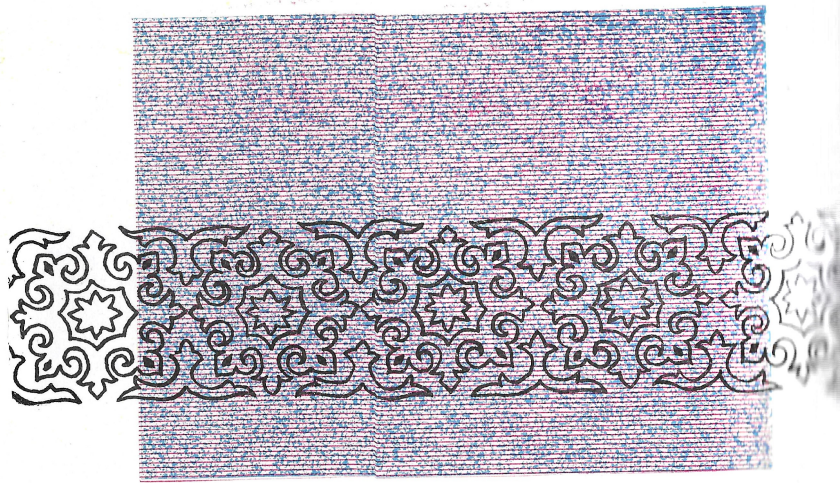
It lies on a hill which is situated in the middle of a low extensive district which is surrounded from all sides by hills which join it with the Ala wite mountain in a way which gives the whole district its excellent defensive quality. What attracts interest to this hill is its geological composition in which the volcanic nature is dominant where the Bazeltian balck stones crown its white line base. The matter which clarifies the reason of its selection for erecting this citadel over it is it's invincible position.



The citadel of Shmeimiss over its hill

A surrounding ditch prevents the accession to it except from the only way on an elevated bridge which is erected at the southern part as is obvious from the ruins which are totally obliterated. For this reason these ruins situated at the top have become inaccessible except by climbing or creeping over its vertical sides. When the visitor reaches its summit after much effort he would find himself over a war centre which settles in the middle of a strategic position which closes the outlets of ramified ways to diverse adjacent similar places. In the south there comes the town of Al-Mushrifa (Katana) followed by Homs at its back. In the west lies Hama and the Orontes' valley and in the north Al-Andareen and Aleppo, and in the east the landscape of Bala'as covered with forests.

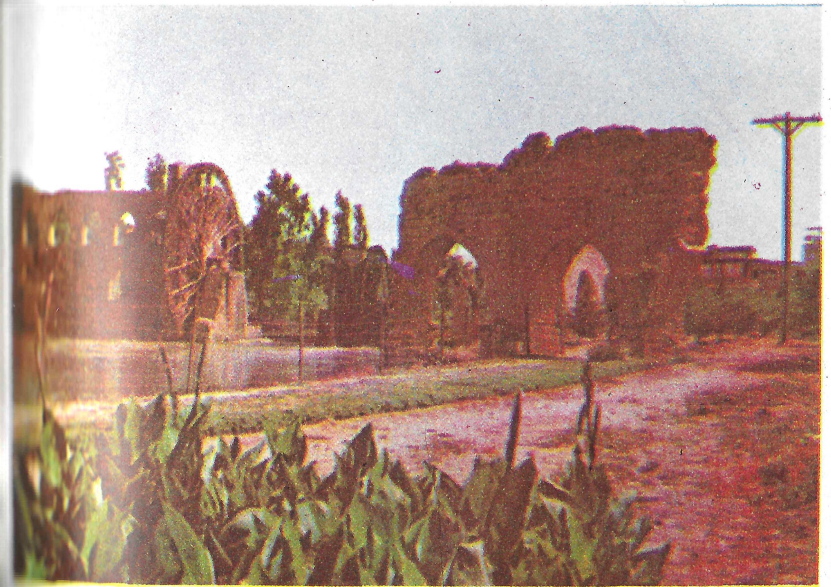
It is probable that Sharco the prince of Homs had erected it in the year A.D., 1221 as mentioned by Abi-Al-Fida .



THE IMPORTANT PARKS AND TOURISTIC REGIONS IN HAMA

1 - The Casino :

It lies in one of the most beautiful spots in Hama, in the east-northern side of the city and looks over the Orontes with its four norias surrounded by gardens and public parks on both sides. In it, the tourist finds all that

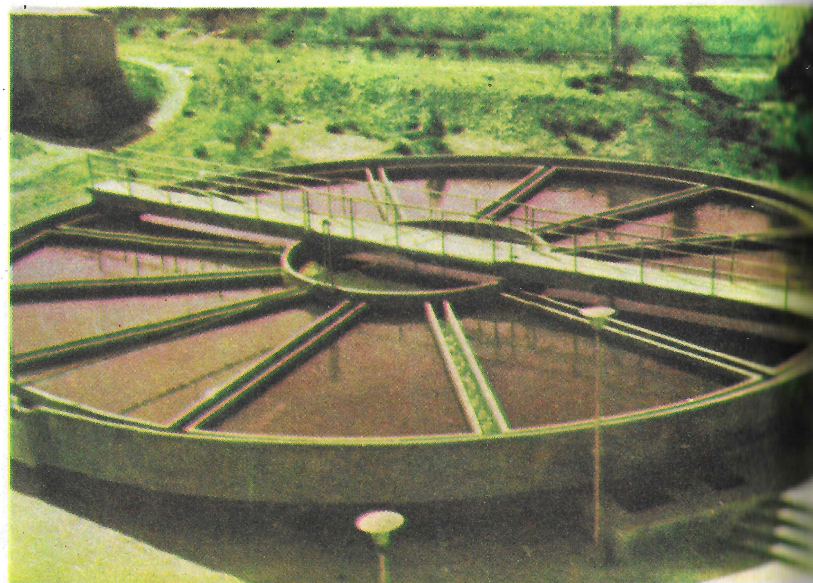


southern façade of the casino

he needs of food, drink and rest. A paved road leads to it along-the river side which is planted in trees of every kind.

2 - Water Purification Center

Is a modern enterprise including buildigs to purify Hama's water supply. It is situated in the south of the



New purification basins

city at about 7 Kms. distance. It includes fine gardens in the middle of which there are several pools.

3 - The Artesian Well

This well lies at the eastern side of the city in a spot called Al-Museitiba which is identified by its pure air and fine weather and its elevation over the city where it looks over the whole city. Its well has become a therapeutic water station of the first kind. Its medical use has



A frontal view of the park in which the artesian well was discovered in Al-Museitiba region in Hama

been assured after the analysis of its water and after that its visitors had felt its wholesome uses.

4 - Birnawi

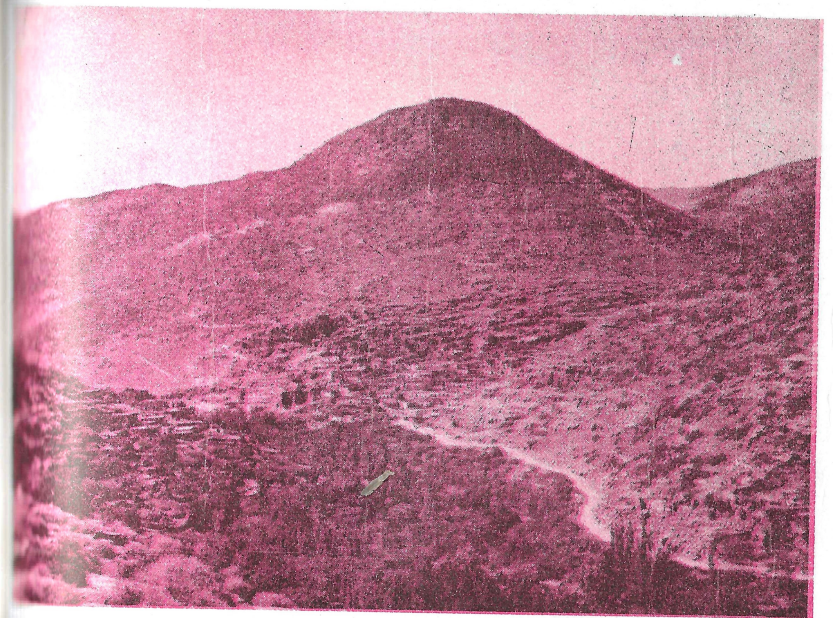
Is a lofty elevation at the far northern west side of the city. It looks over the Orontes river with its surrounding gardens on both sides and over different sections of the city.



At the front of the picture there appears a part of the Birnawi elevation which lies over the Orontes' valley in Hama .

5 - Wadi Al-Iyoon (the springs' valley)

Is a famous summer place which lies at the west of Massiaf. It can be reached easily by the western paved road. In that wide valley, plenty of thick shadowy trees are found in addition to fruit and vegetables orchards irrigated by a countless number of small springs for which this valley got its name and for which the whole region has become an excellent summer-place visited by parties of natives from both the inside and the coasts for it lies



General view of the valley

in a mid-point amongthem. In the valley there is a number of cafés and modern parks which assure rest for the visitors.

6 - The Warraka Park

Is the most famous park in Massiaf. It lies in a poetic region with a wate pool in the middle and a sweet spring. This in addition to the thickets and the vineyards which are spread in its space and alike are the valleys and the neighbouring planted banks which in their whole form an evergreen park. There are many springs all around this park the most renowned of which being "Al-Nabet" and there lies at its vicinity a thicket of poplar and alder trees trees which entices the amateurs of sportive picnics to erect their camps in their shades.



The entrance and façade of the Warraka Park in the region of Massiaf



The façade of Abu-Kubeisse's Park

7 - The Park of Abu-Kubeiss

Is a valley which extends up to a high region of the adjacent banks of a village called Deir Shmeyyel where runs a water spring which formulates the river known by this name. The parks extend along this valley which can be reached by car in a convenient way. The best of these places is the middle part of the valley which includes a casino visited by many people who find in it every pleasure and rest. It is a planted valley surrounded by elevations from both sides at its summit there lies the antiquarean citadel of Abu-Kubeiss. A fine breeze blows and sweet water runs through this valley, its parks are ready to receive visitors at every time.

The Ghab

Is one of the richest and the most fertile plains in Syria. It forms a directory region whose centre is Al-Sukeiliyya which depends from Hama. The area of its basin reaches 175.000 hectares, its length approaches 50Kms and its medium width 10Kms. It is composed of six parts : (Jureen, Al-Huwash, Al-Jayyed Shatha, Ain Al-Kuroom, and Al-Kuroom).

Formerly it was a marsh where there were



Sheisar, Southern Kee of the Ghab .

plenty of thickets and sea-birds, wild pig and a kind of river-fish called Sallor. The local government with the aid of the United Nations (the directory of Ghab development) drained these swamps into fertile plains irrigated by ducts and modern basins, with dams, reservoirs

and waterfalls spread around with roads bridges farms and model villages inhabited by sound and healthy people. The government intends to build an electric power plant to provide electricity to the towns and villages and to help the industrial expansion. It has already established basins and artificial lakes for pisciculture purposes. It also established a modern station for dairy cattle.

The one who visits the region will be surprised by its enchanting scenery and the magnificence of the work there especially since the asphalted roads linking its different parts are over.



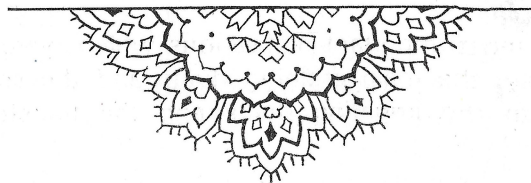
basins for the purpose of pisciculture

The most important realisations which were erected for it were the main draining ducts and the secondary ones with the irrigating ducts and the transforming

dams and the dams for storing water such as the Rastan dam and Mahardeh dam and the dam of Ammooreen. The Ghab is directed now by licenced people benefitting from the laws of agrerian reform organised in cooperatives which receive every help from the revolutionary state.

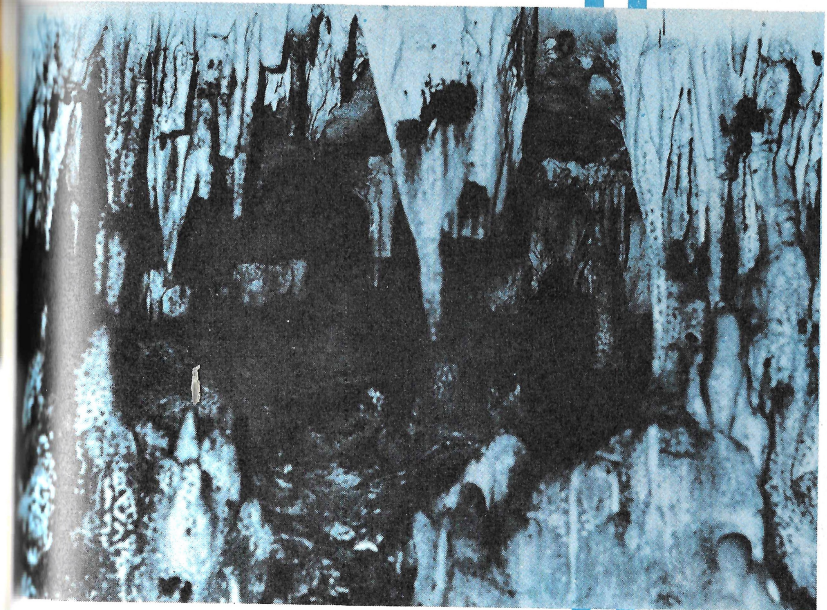


A side of the storing dam at Mahardeh in the beginning of storage.



The Aphamea Cave

Lies on the side of the common road at ten Kilometers from Aphamea city opposite to the Northern Huweiz village in the east covered by the lofty mountain above where there can appear its entrance as a widened gap which narrows down as we go inside after crossing 10 meters from it. Its internal yard is very spacious spanning from it many openings which lead to other similar ducts. Nature had opened our cave as an enticing and magnificent even a miraculous scene where its ceiling and parts of its walls ornamented are by the staligmites and the stalignites in different and beautiful shapes the equal of which is rare except in the cave of Kadisha in Lebanon.

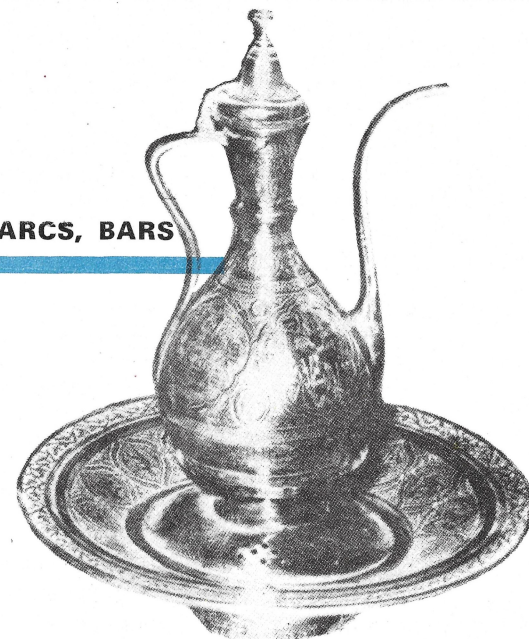


different shapes of staligmites and stalignites

HOTELS

Name	Location	telephone No
1- Abi Al-Fida's Hotel	Al-Hurriya square (Assi)	2770-2478
2- Basman Hotel	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	2838
3- Cairo Hotel	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	2096
4- Al-Reyad Hotel	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	2843
5- Ghassan Hotel	Al-Alamein (Al-Saddik) Str.	2599
6- Orient Palace	Selemieh region	43-4
7- Dar Al- Farah Hotel	Massiaf region	51-33
8- Zahrat Al-Gharb Hotel	Mahardeh region	—

RESTAURANTS, PARCS, BARS



1- The 4Norias' Casino	Al-Bishriyat	2003-2013
2- Abi-Al-Fida Club	Al-Hurriya Square (Assi)	2932
3- Al-Aili Club	Al-Madina quarter	—
4- Restaurant and Bar	Al-Shark Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	1773
5- Al-Marah	The Artesian well's region	2457
6- Al-Umara	The Artesian well's region	1086
7- Sheha Park	Mahardeh region	1-21
8- Asper's Park	Mahardeh region	4-5-4
9- Warraka Park	Massiaf region	2-0-2
10-Roudat Al-Wadi	Wadi Al-Iyoon region	3
11-Al-Wadi Al-Jameel Park	Wadi Al-Iyoon region	
12-Casino of Wadi Abu-Kubeiss	Abu-Kubeiss region.	

RESTAURANTS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| 1- Al-Wahda Al-Arabiya | Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str. | 2451 |
| 2- Al-Ahli | Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str. | 1869 |
| 3- Al-Arabi | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 2007 |
| 4- Al-Shark | Slemieh | |
| 5- Al-Karma | Mahardeh | |
| 6- Al-Shark | Mahardeh | |
| 7- Al-Sayyed | Massiaf | |
| 8- Al-Alfé | Massiaf | |



REFRESHMENTS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------|
| 1- Al-Jamhooriya Salon | Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str. | 1700 |
| 2- Hamdo Sallora salon | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1284 |
| 3- Abdo Sallora Salon | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1801 |
| 4- Barazi Salon | Selemieh | 2-27 |
| 5- Al-Shark Salon | Massiaf | |

CINEMAS

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|
| 1- Al-Shark | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1991 |
| 2- Dunia | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1950 |
| 3- Hama | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1604 |
| 4- Al-Ameer | Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi) | 1991 |
| 5- Dunia | Mahardeh Region | 1-23 |
| 6- Al-Zahra | Selemieh region-Homs Str. | 4-37 |
| 7- Dunia | Sukeilibiya region | 1-23 |
| 8- Al-Nasr | Massiaf region | 1-42 |

CAFES

1- The Casino	Bishriyat	2003-2013
2- Al-Muntada	Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	2932
3- Abi Al-Fida Café	Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	2922
4- Al-Rouda Café	Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	1688
5- Al-Jamhoriya Café	Governmental Palaces' Sq.	2883
6- Al-Sadya Café	Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	1688
7- Al-Asbah Café	Mahardeh region	1-19
8- Al-Shark Café	Selemieh region	4-23
9- Al-Saraya Café	Massiaf region	—

TRAVEL AGENCIES

1- Selemieh Garage	Al-Hurriya Sq. (Assi)	1133
2- Al-Sahel travels	Marabet Str.	2566
3- Al-Sari Garage	(Marhardeh) Al-Kuwatli Str.	1393
4- Omayya Al-Jadeed Garage	Al-Kuwatli Str.	1968
5- Al-Nahda Garage	Governmental Palaces	1629

TAXIS

1- The Norias' Bureau	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	2485
2- Sermini Bureau	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	2980

AIR AGENCIES

1- Syrian Arab Air-lines	Shukri Al-Kuwatli Str.	1213
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THE IMPORTANT MANUFACTURES FORWHICH HAMA IS CELEBRATED

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1- Bed-sheets | Suk Al-Taweel |
| 2- Bath towels | Suk Al-Taweel |
| 3- Baths cloaks | Suk Al-Taweel |
| 4- Arab head dresses
(Breem) | Suk Al-Taweel |
| 5- Pipes for the
Nargilles | Al-Bashoorah hill |
| 6- Various Sandals | Jourat Hawa |

